

partial one, as represented in the coloured figure which shows the black or purplish stripe of that species.

As I stated before, Dr. Hallowell says that his specimen of *N. auratus* (the one received from Paris) was from Mexico. I would add that I have lately had an opportunity of examining two more specimens of *Norops duodecimstriatus*, and that they agree well with Dr. Berthold's description.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

A History of British Hydroid Zoophytes. By THOMAS HINCKS, B.A.
2 vols. Van Voorst, 1869.

WE regret that circumstances have prevented our before noticing this valuable work, which has now been out some months. It is a long looked-for addition to our zoological literature, and it comes to us as a welcome guest. Mr. Hincks has for many years laboured patiently and assiduously in the study of that order of animals formerly associated with organisms belonging to wholly different types, under the general term Zoophytes, but now considered to constitute one of three orders included in the class Hydrozoa of Huxley, and known as Hydroida. A work upon this subject was very greatly needed. Two classes of the animals embraced in Johnston's 'Zoophytes' had already been ably handled in more recent publications—the Polyzoa by Mr. Busk*, and the Actinozoa by Mr. Gosse†. Meanwhile, however, the class Hydrozoa has remained untreated of. Wonderful strides were being made in our knowledge of the affinities, structure, and marvellous life-history of its members. The discovery of the so-called "alternation of generations," of the sexual differentiation of many species, and of the peculiarities and diversity in the mode of reproduction and evolution of the several families and genera, have thrown over the study and investigation of this order of animals a flood of interest which is perhaps scarcely equalled, and certainly not surpassed, in any other group of the animal kingdom. During the last twenty years a host of able naturalists have been adding their contributions to the common store of knowledge of these animals. Sars, Ehrenberg, Krohn, Agassiz (father and son), Lovén, Huxley, Alder, Hincks, Van Beneden, Allman, Kölliker, Stenstrup, Dujardin, Gegenbaur, Leuckart, Strethill Wright, Clark, Grenc, Claparède, &c. have been among the most active investigators who, in all parts of the world, have been patiently working out those detailed facts upon which alone the generalizations of a true systematic arrangement can be based.

'The History of British Hydroid Zoophytes' opens with an In-

* Catalogue of the Marine Polyzoa in the Collection of the British Museum. By George Busk, F.R.S. 1852-54.

† A History of the British Sea-Anemones and Corals. By P. H. Gosse, F.R.S. Van Voorst, 1860.

roduction of seventy-eight pages. We must confess to great disappointment with this portion of the work. We had hoped to find here a careful analysis of all that is now known of the reproduction, development, and affinities of these animals, given in such a way as to arouse at once the incipient naturalist's interest and stimulate him not so much to the collection of specimens as to the observation of facts and the history of species. Instead of this, we find only a short account of the physiology, general morphology, and reproduction, condensed into the briefest possible space—so much so as to be nearly unintelligible to those not previously acquainted with the subject, and repellent from its laconic brevity. This is much to be regretted. An attempt to describe the reproduction of the Hydroida in such a work as this in the short space of twenty pages is an attempt at an impossibility.

When we pass, however, from the introduction to the descriptive portion of the work, we find everything to merit praise. It is in this that the value of the book consists. It has for some time been hopeless for any beginner to attempt the study of the smaller Hydroida; the work of Johnston was so greatly behind the day, and the number of species since described by Alder, Allman, Hincks, Strehill Wright, Norman, Hodge, &c. so great, that, scattered as they were throughout all sorts of publications, some illustrated and some not, it would have been a hopeless task for any naturalist who had not gradually kept pace with the subject to commence *de novo* its study. It is therefore with no little interest we take up these volumes, in which all the species that have been described are brought together, carefully defined, and fully illustrated.

Mr. Hincks distributes the Hydroida into three suborders, which he names Athecata, Thecaphora, and Gymnochroa—names which correspond with, but are certainly preferable to, the Tubularina, Sertularina, and Hydrina of Ehrenberg as adopted by Johnston, and with the orders Hydridæ, Corynidæ, and Sertularidæ of Greene, the last being objectionable, not only because, as the former, they are derivatives from the names of genera, but doubly so as having the termination *-idæ*, which is always considered to be indicative of families, and not of orders. These suborders contain one hundred and seventy-nine species, of which sixty-one only are to be found in the 'History' of Dr. Johnston. The chief discoveries have been among the Athecata, as will be evident from the following table, and are for the most part very small forms:—

	Hincks.	Johnston.
Athecata	72	14
Thecaphora	93	43
Gymnochroa	4	4

The descriptions of both genera and species are very carefully drawn up, and are full without being diffuse. Dichotomous tables are given at p. 51 of the Introduction; these are always very useful, and will at once enable the student to refer any species which he may find to its place.

Numerous woodcuts are interspersed throughout the text; and the second volume is entirely occupied with sixty-seven plates of the species, from drawings by the author and his friends, and engraved by Tuffen West. The plates are excellent; almost every species is fully illustrated, and the character of the drawings is all that could be wished.

British Conchology. Vol. V. By JOHN GWYN JEFFREYS, F.R.S., F.G.S., &c. Van Voorst, 1869.

MR. JEFFREYS'S work upon the British Mollusca is complete. We have from time to time noticed the previous volumes as they were published, and are glad to welcome the fifth and concluding volume. We believe that the work has extended to a much greater length than was originally contemplated by its author; but at the same time it is much more complete. While we regret that this very perfection of the book, and its consequently increased price, places it, we fear, beyond the reach of many active naturalists, the length of whose purse is not in proportion to their ardour in the pursuit of natural history, it will be a satisfaction to all students of conchology who can purchase Mr. Jeffreys's work to find that it supplies them with all that they could desire. There is very much here which is not to be met with in the 'History' of Forbes and Hanley—descriptions and figures of the numerous species which have been recently added to the British fauna, descriptions of a large number of the inhabitants of the shells which are not to be found elsewhere, numerous corrections of synonymy, much extended information on the range in area, in depth, and in geological time of the species, together with a mass of carefully analyzed and compressed details on life-history and habits, collected from the extended bibliography on the subject of the last twenty years.

The present volume contains the history of the families Aplysiadae, Pleurobranchiadae, Runcinidae, and Pleurophylliidiadae; the order Nudibranchiata, the marine Pulmonobranchiata, and the classes Cephalopoda and Pteropoda. The account of the Nudibranchiate Mollusca was written for Mr. Jeffreys by the late Mr. Alder, and therefore has additional value as coming from him who was *facile princeps* in that department of the Mollusca. At the end of the volume is a supplement containing some eighty pages of very condensed notes of recent observations on an immense number of species, and descriptions of many Mollusca new to the British fauna, the products chiefly of Shetland dredging, and of the dredging of Messrs. Carpenter and Thomson last year, in H.M.S. 'Lightning,' in the abyss of the sea between the Hebrides and Faroe Islands. These notes are of extreme interest, showing the range of a considerable number of Mollusca to the great depth of from 500 to 650 fathoms.

But the chief value of this concluding volume of 'British Conchology' consists in the plates. At the commencement we find, as usual, a coloured frontispiece—in this instance an admirably coloured and life-like figure of *Octopus vulgaris*, one of the very best and